



BRANDON M. SCOTT  
MAYOR

*Office of Government Relations  
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401*

**HB 1199**

March 2, 2022

**TO:** Members of the House Judicial Proceedings Committee

**FROM:** Natasha Mehu, Director, Office of Government Relations

**RE:** House Bill 1199 – Workgroup to Study the Impact of Court-Mandated Fines and Fees

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Chair Clippinger, Vice Chair Moon, and Members of the Committee, please be advised that the Baltimore City Administration (BCA) **supports** House Bill (HB) 1199.

HB 1199 establishes a workgroup to study the impact of court-mandated fines and fees on low-income residents and develop legislative recommendations for reducing court-mandated fines and fees.

Mayor Brandon Scott reconstituted the Baltimore City Criminal Justice Coordinating Council in August 2021. On October 11, 2021, the CJCC unanimously voted to create the Fines, Fees, and Restitution Workgroup. CJCC workgroups are made up of local, state, and federal agencies, residents, business partners, institutions, community-based organizations, and others who are considered subject matter experts. Mayor Scott has tasked this workgroup with assessing the current uses of fines and fees and making recommendations to ensure fines are equitably imposed and enforced.

Baltimore City is committed to investigating this important issue. However, rethinking how we impose court-mandated fines and fees on low-income residents will require action by state-level decision-makers, including this committee. My administration looks forward to participating in the workgroup established by this bill.

We respectfully request a **favorable** report on HB 1199.